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SOUTHEAST UCC Conference



June 15, 2018

From the Conference Minister

Dear Friends,

Last week we gathered together at Piedmont College for the 52nd Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference United Church of Christ. We worshiped together, prayed together, talked, debated, voted, and had fun together. We learned new things, saw old friends, met new friends, discerned the future of the conference, and came together to do the work and ministry that is the conference.



We are the conference together. We will agree on some things. We will disagree on some things. But, together, we are the UCC people of God here in our region. There are many issues that divide our country now. There are many issues that we will hold many different opinions on, but we are called to bring God's love and grace to our world, even when our opinions may not agree with each other. Let us come together, to proclaim God's love and grace to each and every person, so that we may extend the welcome we experience as part of God's family to others who are seeking that same welcome.

Blessings,
Marie



2018-2019 Officers and 2019 General Synod Delegates

During the 52nd Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference the following slate of officers and General Synod delegates were voted upon and approved:

- Moderator: **Rev. JR Finney** (Covenant Community Church: Birmingham, AL)
- Vice Moderator: **Rev. Rebecca Seldomridge** (Pleasant Hill Community Church, TN)
- Secretary: **Gavin Warren** (Holy Trinity Community Church: Nashville, TN)
- Treasurer: **Heith Battles** (Covenant Community Church: Birmingham, AL)
- Commission on Ministry Chair: **Rev. Shannon Michael Pater** (Central Congregation UCC: Atlanta, GA)
- Nominating Committee Chair: **Rev. James Bowman Harris** (United Church of Cookeville; Cookeville, TN)
- Personnel Committee Chair: **Rev. Scott Williamson** (Pilgrim Congregational UCC; Chattanooga, TN)
- Stewardship & Finance Chair: **Juanita Simmons** (Victory for the World; Stone Mountain, GA)

Members at Large:

- **Vanessa Robbs** (Pilgrim Congregational UCC; Chattanooga, TN)
- **Tony England** (Holy Trinity Community Church and Brookmeade

- Congregational Church; Nashville, TN)
- **Rev. Ginnie Ferrell** (First Congregational UCC; Atlanta GA)
 - **Sean Kilpatrick** (Kirkwood UCC; Atlanta, GA)
 - **Hannah Mays** (United Church of Cookeville; Cookeville, TN)
 - **Penny Hensley** (Phoenix Christian Church; Wildersville, TN)

Delegates to 2019 General Synod:

- **Rev. Julius Jessep-Peterson** (Decatur United Church of Christ; Decatur, GA)
- **Carrole Moss** (Victory for the World Church; Stone Mountain, GA)
- **Thomas Mitchell** (Church of the Savior; Knoxville, TN)
- **Rev. JR Finney** (Covenant Community Church UCC; Birmingham, AL)
- **Rev. Cindy Barto** (Central Congregational UCC; Atlanta, GA)
- **Kriss Choi** (Open Community UCC; Duluth, GA)

Generosity and Giving

Greetings all,

It was really good to see you all at Annual Meeting. Putting names to faces is so important. Please let this serve as a reminder that we not forget:

OUR VISION

To inspire donors, through purposeful engagement about the importance of philanthropy and stewardship within the United Church of Christ and its churches to be active participants in transforming the world around us!

OUR MISSION

To create a culture of philanthropy that invites people to grow in generosity, in faith and in relationship with God and the United Church of Christ.

OUR CORE VALUES

- Purposeful teaching on the importance of stewarding of all resources,
- Fostering trust with internal and external stakeholders,
- Modeling what it means to reimagine the gifts of God - lived out through joyful engagement of resources, and excellent stewardship of



relationships and resources - equipping others to serve, to ask, and to give.

Together, let's re-imagine the gifts of God.

I encourage you to call on me as we travel this journey together. Please invite me to your church so that we may engage...together.

Blessings,

Carrole

cmoss@secucc.org



Prayer List

We are continuing the process of praying for authorized ministers, congregations, and ministry groups throughout 2018. We encourage you to include these prayer requests in your local church newsletter, share them with your prayer circle, and include them in your own prayers. [Click here to download the entire 2018 prayer list.](#)

Week of June 18

- Union UCC; Tougaloo, Mississippi
- Vaughn Crowe Tipton
- John Gill
- Jean Norton
- Katie Kilpatrick

Week of June 25

- Midway Congregational UCC; Midway, Georgia

- Dorinda Broadnax
- Brenda Green
- Dorothy Owen
- Brice Thomas

Churches in Transition

Garden of Grace, Columbia, SC; Emmanuel, Greenville, SC; First Congregational, Birmingham, AL; Pilgrimage, Marietta, GA; Sandy Creek, Lafayette, AL; Church of the Savior, Alpharetta, GA

News from our Local Congregations



Final Service of Worship at Decatur UCC

Decatur United Church of Christ held their final worship service on Sunday, June 10, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. Originally Christ Covenant Metropolitan Community Church, the congregation joined the UCC and became Decatur UCC in 2011. Following the sale of their longtime church building on Hibernia Avenue in Decatur they moved to a more visible location on Lawrenceville Highway. The congregation's most recent home was at 6552 James B Rivers Memorial Drive in Stone Mountain.

As part of the closing of the church, the congregation is donating their physical and financial assets to other 501(c)(3) charities. They are pleased to announce that New Directions for Autism is receiving half of the chairs and some of their office equipment. Excitingly, the Real Inspiration Ministries Church (another UCC Open and Affirming church) will be taking the

majority of our religious items including the altar, pulpit, and lectern; the banners and crosses; and the prayer candle station among other items.

Upper Room (Nashville) Spring Potluck

With 53 in attendance, a great gathering of Nashville-area UCC churches took place on May 19th at Holy Trinity Community Church. Following a potluck supper together, music videos of the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir were experienced amid readings of the powerful Psalm 145. The evening's special guest speaker (Rev. J. R. Finney, Moderator of the Southeast UCC Conference!) spoke on the theme "God is Working & Stillspeaking" and shared very insightful thoughts about the prayer life of Jesus. The next meeting of the Upper Room UCC Fellowship will be in the Fall on Saturday, October 20th at Brookmeade. Save the Date!

News from the Wider Church

UCC Leaders: Keep Families Together

Condemning the unconscionable assertion that migrant children should be separated from their parents because of 'orderly and lawful processes that protect the weak and lawful,' — a Biblical statement used to justify U.S. immigration policies — United Church of Christ National Leadership has issued this pastoral letter, urging the people of the denomination's almost 5,000 congregations to take action now!

First, by contacting their Congressional representatives, and then by providing funds to keep families together. Money to be used to support the people sleeping in the streets at the borders of this country, or those parents and children separated upon entry. [Read more on the UCC website.](#)

The UCC condemns the dismantling of families, the criminalization of the quest for freedom, and the caging of those whose only crime is to seek shelter from harm.

National Leadership of the United Church of Christ

Grow Your Church with a UCC Grant

Funding is available for new spiritual communities or congregations with a clear, defined project of renewal. Apply today a New & Renewing Spiritual Communities Grant! [Get more information here.](#)

General Minister and President Renomination Process

The UCC Board is looking to the wider church for input on the leadership of the Rev. John Dorhauer as part of the re-nomination process for the UCC General Minister and President. [Share your feedback.](#)

Reimagining Interfaith: July 29-Aug 1 in D.C.

The United Church of Christ is a co-sponsor of the Reimagining Interfaith event July 29-August 1st in Washington, D.C. This event is an opportunity to engage in skill-building, networking, and organizing with grassroots activists and interfaith peace builders from around the world. [Learn more and register.](#)

Make the UCC Story Your Story

Interactive, engaging UCC identity materials are now available for congregations, new member classes, committees and more. Plan a summer program using the videos and discussion guides. [Check out these free](#)

[resources available from the UCC](#). As an added bonus, as you watch the videos watch for a number of folks from the Southeast Conference who have provided content and narration!

Training and Learning Opportunities

Living the Heart of Progressive Christian Theology

PATHWAYS Theological Education, Inc., is pleased to announce a unique summer course designed for those interested in learning more about progressive Christian theology: Living the Heart of Progressive Christian Theology. This six-week online course will explore the work of Marcus Borg and consider themes in theology like the nature of God, Jesus as the Christ, and what it means to be Christian in a pluralistic world. The course begins on Wednesday, July 11 and will conclude on Tuesday, August 21, 2018.

Living the Heart of Progressive Christian Theology will be facilitated by the Rev. Dr. Trish Greeves, an experienced pastor, former faculty member at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, and respected author.

Tuition for the course is \$295. The course is conducted asynchronously online so that participants sign into the course room and participate in discussions based on their own schedule. For more information, visit: www.PATHWAYS-UCC.org.

PATHWAYS Theological Education, Inc., is a progressive Christian learning community seeking to empower transformative leadership for justice and peace within and beyond the church by engaging heart and mind to consider what it means to know, love and serve God in today's changing world.

Mediation Skills Training Institute in Alabama

You are invited to attend ***Mediation Skills Training Institute***, a five-day workshop for clergy and church leaders that teaches participants how to deal with conflict in their church, home, and/or workplace in effective and healthy ways. This interdenominational workshop will be held at the beautiful Maranatha Camp and Conference Center in Scottsboro, AL from August 27-31, 2018. It will be hosted by the Presbytery of North Alabama and presented by the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center. For information

about registration and fees—including meals and on-site lodging at Maranatha Camp—please contact Reverend Thomas Lewis at pastor@copeland-church.org or 256-468-0383, or visit the website of the North Alabama Presbytery at <https://napcusa.org/>.

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